

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 123149

EXDIS; FOR AMBASSADORS SULLIVAN AND HARTMAN

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MMUC, TECH, PK

SUBJECT:PAKISTAN REPROCESSING PLANT

REFS: (A) TEHRAN 4355; (B) TEHRAN 4016; (C) TEHRAN 4356;
(D) TEHRAN 4521

1. FOR TEHRAN - THE FRENCH MFA IS PREPARING AN OPTIONS
PAPER FOR GISCARD ON THE REPROCESSING PLANT SALE TO
PAKISTAN. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ONE OPTION - THE ONLY ONE
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CONSISTENT WITH OUR NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY - IS CAN-
CELLATION OF THE CONTRACT. WE OBVIOUSLY WANT TO SEE THE
FRENCH CHOOSE THAT ROUTE, AND ARE LOOKING AT WAYS WE
CAN ENCOURAGE THEM TO DO SO.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT NOW IS A PROPITIOUS TIME TO SEEK
GREATER IRANIAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE REPROCESSING PLANT

SALE. YOUR FRANK COMMENT TO KHALATBARY ON THIS ISSUE, REPORTED REFTEL C, HIT RIGHT ON THE MARK. WE FIND THE SHAH'S NEGATIVE COMMENT ON THE PLANT REFTEL D ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGING. WE HAVE ALSO NOTED YOUR ASSESSMENT THAT THE SHAH WOULD LIKE TO PLAY A ROLE IN OUR ATTEMPTS TO HAVE PAKISTAN FOREGO REPROCESSING. ALTHOUGH THE SHAH'S VIEWS MAY NOT BE A MAJOR CONSIDERATION IN THE WAY GISCARD CHOOSES TO GO ON REPROCESSING, AN EXPRESSION TO PARIS OF

IRAN'S CONCERNS AND ITS WILLINGNESS TO HELP FIND AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION, MIGHT HELP TIP THE BALANCE TOWARD CANCELLATION OF THE CONTRACT. WE WANT TO AVOID, HOWEVER, ANY APPEARANCE THAT WE ARE ENCOURAGING THE SHAH TO PRESSURE THE FRENCH, AND WOULD PREFER THAT ANY APPROACH TO GOF BE POSITIVE IN TONE AND CONTENT. WE SHOULD NOT REVEAL PRIVILEGED CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN US AND THE FRENCH INCLUDING THE FACT THAT STUDY ON THE SUBJECT IS BEING NOW PREPARED FOR PRESIDENT GISCARD.

3. YOU SHOULD CONSEQUENTLY SEEK AN APPOINTMENT AT AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS ON THE REPROCESSING PLANT:

-- WE SHARE THE SHAH'S DEEP CONCERN THAT PAKISTANI INSISTENCE ON THE REPROCESSING PLANT IS ILL-ADVISED AND CONTAINS THE SEEDS FOR FURTHER INSTABILITY IN THE
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REGION.

-- FOLLOWING THE RECENT EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN, WE FACE A DIFFERENT AND DISTURBING SITUATION IN THE AREA, ONE IN WHICH PAKISTAN'S SECURITY AND WELL-BEING TAKE ON EVEN GREATER IMPORTANCE.

-- IF THE GOP PERSISTS IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN A RE-PROCESSING CAPABILITY, IT WILL HAVE A CONTINUING DIRECT AND NEGATIVE IMPACT ON OUR ABILITY TO HELP MEET PAKISTAN'S NEEDS.

-- A KEY TO THE RESOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE IS FRANCE, WHICH NOW MUST DETERMINE HOW TO PROCEED IN THIS MATTER.

-- WE WANT THE SHAH TO KNOW THAT WE ARE ACTIVELY CONSIDERING WHAT POSITIVE INDUCEMENTS WE AND OTHERS COULD OFFER TO PAKISTAN AFTER IT AGREES TO RENOUNCE THE RE-PROCESSING OPTION. IF THE SHAH IS WILLING TO UNDERTAKE A CANDID EXCHANGE WITH PARIS ON THE REPROCESSING ISSUE, WE HOPE HE WOULD BE ABLE TO EXPRESS IRANIAN WILLINGNESS TO WORK CLOSELY WITH US AND PARIS TO FIND A WAY WHICH IS

IN OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS OUT OF THE REPROCESSING DILEMMA.

-- WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IF THE SHAH WOULD EXPRESS HIS CONCERNS, AND HIS WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH THE US AND FRANCE ON THE REPROCESSING ISSUE, TO PRESIDENT GISCARD IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WE THINK IT IS IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST IF PARIS IS FULLY AWARE OF IRANIAN VIEWS IN THIS MATTER.

4. IF THE SHAH ASKS WHAT STEPS WE PLAN TO TAKE TO EN-

COURAGE CANCELLATION, YOU CAN NOTE THAT WE ARE ENGAGED IN CONTINUING TALKS WITH THE FRENCH ON THIS ISSUE. WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR VIEWS FORCEFULLY TO PAKISTAN. WE
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WILL CONTINUE TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH THE SHAH TO HAVE THE BENEFIT OF HIS VIEWS. (FYI. WE ARE ACTIVELY WORKING ON A PROPOSED PACKAGE WHICH COULD INCLUDE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND MILITARY SALES COMPONENTS. END FYI.)

5. FOR PA;IS - WE WANT TO AVOID ANY FEELING IN PARIS THAT WE ARE ORCHESTRATING A CAMPAIGN TO BRING PRESSURE ON FRANCE. YOU MAY, IF YOU BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE, INFORM SOUTOU OR JACOMET THAT WE HOPE TO INVOLVE THE IRANIANS IN SUPPORTING OUR MUTUAL GOAL OF FINDING AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE REPROCESSING PLANT, PERHAPS IN TERMS OF SUPPORT FOR THE PACKAGE WE WOULD OFFER PAKISTAN AFTER IT GIVES UP THE PLANT. WE HAVE INITIATED DISCUSSIONS WITH IRAN TO THAT END. WE WILL KEEP GOF FULLY APPRISED OF THE COURSE OF OUR TALKS IN TEHRAN. VANCE

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